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ABSTRACT

The Kansas state plan for the education of homeless youth and children provides operational strategies to help local school districts and attendance centers facilitate an environment that is conducive to meeting this population's special needs. The plan confronts barriers to homeless children and youth to provide them with public education that is consistent with the educational opportunities provided to children of all residents of the state. The plan is divided into the following sections: (1) "Background and Need," which describes the problem of homelessness and provides an overview of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990; (2) "Homeless Data Collection: Findings," which explains the method of data collection used during a 1990 survey and summarizes the findings; (3) "State Board Objectives and Outcomes," which details the organizational responsibilities of the State Board of Education; and (4) "Local Education Agency Objectives and Outcomes," which provides strategic objectives for local implementation of the Act and defines procedural tasks of local education agencies; The fifth and final section contains three appendices, which provide, respectively, definitions for technical terminology used in interpreting Federal policy and in formulating state and local directives, categorical definitions of homeless children and youth, and composite data from the 1990 survey of Kansas public schools. Included are four references. (JB)

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Kansas State Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

STEWART B. McKINNEY HOMELESS ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1990 (P.L. 101-645)

APPROVED BY THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUGUST 14, 1991

FOR FISCAL YEARS 1991-1995

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Strategic Directions for Kansas Education

The Kansas State Board of Education is charged with the general supervision of public education and other educational interests in the state. While clearly acknowledging the role and importance of local control, the State Board of Education has the responsibility to provide direction and leadership for the structuring of all state educational institutions under its jurisdiction.

The beginning place for determining the mission for the Kansas State Board of Education is the assumption that all Kansas citizens must be involved in their own learning and the learning of others. It is the combined effort of family, school, and community that makes possible the development of a high quality of life. It is the parent who is the first "teacher" of children. As we grow older, we learn that the school, the workplace, and the community support our lifelong learning and our training and retraining. The Board recognizes the responsibility it holds for Kansas educational systems and promoting quality education programs. The mission for Kansas education is:

To prepare each person with the living, learning, and working skills and values necessary for caring, productive, and fulfilling participation in our evolving, global society.

We believe that the strategic directions for the structuring of Kansas education must be organized to:

- involve parents and support their efforts in the education of their children
- expand learner-focused approaches to curricula and instruction that can amplify the quality and scope of learning
- expand career, lifelong learning, and applied technical preparation which is relevant to the changed nature of work in an information society
- strengthen involvement of business and industry, public and private agencies, and community groups to increase the quality of education and the development of Kansas human resources
- strengthen educational quality and accountability through performance-based curricula and evaluation systems
- develop state and local information systems which may be used for systematic feedback for program improvement, evaluation, and sharing
- strengthen positive environments and develop environments which empower learners and staff
- extend and update the professional and leadership excellence of Kansas educators essential for quality education
- extend and expand the effective utilization of information technology which can increase information access for all learners of the state and productive learning for all Kansas educational institutions
- develop learning communities which involve educational institutions, public and private agencies, and community groups in more effective methods of meeting human resource development needs.

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FOREWORD

The education of homeless children and youth continues to be one of our state's most serious challenges. During the 24-hour period of April 30, 1990, Kansas public schools identified 2,159 students as homeless. In the alternative high schools in our cities, 25 to 30 percent of the students are on the streets or living in inadequate shelter at any given time. Homeless families continue to be the fastest growing segment of the homeless population, particularly those with single parents and young children.

It is the responsibility of Kansas educators to ensure that our homeless children and youth are not ignored, forgotten, or excluded--that, in fact, homeless children and youth receive the benefit of coordinated community effort to minimize the effects of homelessness on each child's mental and physical health and ability to learn.

The Kansas State Board of Education's *State Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth* provides operational strategies designed to help local school districts and attendance centers facilitate an environment conducive to meeting the special needs of these children. The plan also confronts barriers, existing or anticipated, to homeless children and youth receiving a free and appropriate public education consistent with the educational opportunities provided to children of residents of the state.

Because education is only one of the many needs of homeless children, a collaboration of local, state, and federal resources is essential. Therefore, as detailed in the plan, the Kansas State Board of Education places great emphasis on collaborative effort to better serve our homeless children, youth, and their families.

Lee Droegemueller
Commissioner of Education
August 13, 1991

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OVERVIEW

The *Kansas State Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth* is designed to provide an operational framework for identifying strategies that will most effectively ensure a free and appropriate public education to homeless children and youth. The format divides the plan into five sections as follows:

I. **Background and Need.** The introductory section describes the problem of homelessness as an economic phenomenon and provides an overview of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act (P.L. 101-645) of 1990.

II. **Homeless Data Collection: Findings.** This section explains the method of data collection used during the 1990 survey and provides a narrative summary of the findings.

III. **State Board Responsibilities.** This section details the organizational responsibilities of the Kansas State Board of Education, including specific operations and objectives of the Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth.

IV. **Local Education Agency Objectives and Outcomes.** This section provides strategic objectives for local implementation of the act. Procedural tasks of the local education agencies are also defined.

V. **Appendices.** Appendix A contains definitions for technical terminology used in interpreting federal policy and in formulating state and local directives. Appendix B contains the categorical definitions of homeless children and youth. Appendix C contains composite data from the 1990 survey of Kansas public schools.

SECTION I

BACKGROUND AND NEED

BACKGROUND AND NEED

Recognized by the American public as one of the top domestic crises of our time, homelessness was first seen as a problem unique to our nation's largest cities. It has become apparent, however, as homeless shelters spring up across the communities of rural America, that homelessness has reached unprecedented proportion and knows no regional barriers.

As images of homeless persons huddled against the backdrop of fast-paced urban centers now appear side by side with those of Midwestern families living out of abandoned cars in wheat fields, the number of homeless continues to accelerate with families with children identified as the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.

Why Homeless in America?

When the reports of homelessness first gained media attention in the early 1980s, the problem seemed, at most, to be a temporary phenomenon of the 1982-83 recession. The idea that a sizable, permanent underclass was beginning to develop in the U.S. seemed far from credible--"not in America."

As serious economic conditions continue, major studies agree the number of homeless in America is increasing. The reason is twofold: increasing numbers of families living below the poverty line and the lack of subsidized housing.

Who Are America's Homeless Families?

With poverty as the major cause of family homelessness, it is not surprising that most homeless families are single-parent families headed by females. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, homeless families regularly receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) payments and food stamps. Heads of homeless families also tend to be young, with approximately one-half being less than 25 years old. Further, they are more likely to have come from female-headed homes themselves and tend to have less education than otherwise comparable persons.

A Basic Survival Need: Education

While homelessness deprives the family of the basics necessary to human survival--decent shelter and adequate food--it often deprives the family's children of an additional survival need: education. According to the Child Welfare League's study on homeless families, 43 percent of homeless children do not attend school; however, the need for education in the lives of homeless children and youth cannot be overemphasized. Not only is it seen as a primary answer to the ever expanding spiral of poverty but it also serves a critical, immediate need--a sense of place and continuity in the fragmented world of the homeless child.

Homeless children are deprived of education for a number of reasons. Getting a child to school is not high on the homeless parent's list of priorities. Many times a homeless child is required to care for younger siblings--or even the parent. Embarrassment also acts as a frequent barrier. Many of the poor and hungry believe education to be only for the privileged. However, in a 1987 nationwide survey of 104 shelters by the Center for Law and Education, 34 percent of the shelters surveyed reported homeless children were denied access to education. Grounds for denial were numerous and varied, including agency regulations such as state and local residency requirements. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, some school districts deliberately exclude homeless children from classrooms. Lack of information and lack of flexibility on the part of some school districts are also cited by the coalition.

Even when children are enrolled in school--overcoming personal as well as agency barriers--they are easily overlooked in the classroom. Their short stays interfere with the teacher's ability to provide them with adequate instruction. Their records are not available on a timely basis when they transfer to a new district. They move in and out of school, fall behind, and eventually drop out.

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Legislation

Congressional response to the public's considerable concern for the homeless was, initially, the establishment of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) in 1983. Funds dispersed through the states and through a national board made up largely of charitable organizations were used to initiate and expand emergency food and shelter services. Private organizations have also made significant efforts to raise money to aid the homeless, ranging from local church and community efforts to the massive "Hands Across America" fund-raising effort of May 1986.

In 1987, the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (P.L. 100-77) was signed into law. The act required cabinet-level agencies of the government to coordinate efforts for the purpose of providing urgently needed assistance to protect and improve the lives and safety of the homeless--with special emphasis on elderly persons, handicapped persons, and families with children.

Subtitle VII-B of the 1987 act specifically addressed barriers to homeless children and youth receiving a free and appropriate education and made available limited grants for exemplary programs that successfully addressed the needs of homeless students in elementary and secondary schools. The act also stated that residency requirements may not be used to deny access to education to homeless children and directed states to review their residency laws and modify them, when necessary. The act created an Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth within each state to identify the educational needs of homeless children and youth and to develop a state plan specifying how those needs will be met.

New provisions for the education of homeless children and youth are mandated by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act (P.L. 101-645),

which was signed into law November 29, 1990. Three main themes are presented in the new legislation. **First, a major effort not to stigmatize or isolate homeless children is included. Second, emphasis is placed on coordination of all services being provided to homeless students, including remedial education, social services, nutrition, and health services. Lastly, the law calls for efforts to inform teachers and other school personnel about the special needs and issues facing homeless students.**

The Kansas State Plan for Education of Homeless Children and Youth

In accordance with the requirements of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act, this plan ensures a free and appropriate public education for homeless children and youth in Kansas. Local education agencies, service providers, and the Kansas State Board of Education's Kansas Advisory Council on the Homeless, whose members represent the following agencies and organizations, have assisted the State Board of Education in the strategic planning process:

- Cornerstone, Inc., Topeka
- Halstead High School
- Hutchinson Public Schools
- Kansas State Board of Education
- Kansas State Library Literacy Program
- Lincoln Junior and Senior High School
- Manhattan Public Schools
- Salvation Army, Kansas City
- Salvation Army, Wichita

Local education agencies are seen as individual entities experiencing varying degrees of homelessness and community resources. This plan provides state standards and guidelines and encourages local policy development in implementing the requirements of the act, within or beyond the scope of the guidelines provided. Technical assistance is offered to assist local development and school-community resource networking. Specific cases and issues regarding enrollment, placement, and/or attendance may be reviewed by the Office of the Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth of the Kansas State Board of Education (see page 18 for formal review process). In addition, liaisons have been established--and will continue to expand--with local, regional, and national agencies, advocacy groups, and public and private service providers.

Conclusion

At this writing, Congress is deliberating allocations for the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act. While providing beds, food, transitional housing, and education for the homeless is vital, it is not a solution. To alleviate the rapid acceleration of homelessness, rent subsidies must be increased. Additional public and private housing must be provided. Other forms of intervention--permanent solutions rather than emergency responses--must occur in the housing market. Moreover, if current trends in the distribution of income and in the housing market continue into the future, the population of homeless is likely to grow rather than to decline.

To meet the needs of this expanding, critical segment of the at-risk population, the *Kansas State Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth* may require further modification and expansion. At present, the plan addresses the minimal needs of an estimated 6,412* homeless and near homeless, school-age children in Kansas each year.

Suggestions regarding modifications to the plan are solicited by the State Board of Education and should be transmitted through the Commissioner of Education.

*24-hour count factored by 2.97 to project a 365-day count.

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Freeman, Richard B. and Brian Hall (1987). *Permanent Homelessness in America?* The National Bureau of Economic Research.

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SECTION II

HOMELESS DATA COLLECTION: FINDINGS

HOMELESS DATA COLLECTION: FINDINGS

To identify the number and special needs of Kansas' homeless children and youth, a survey of 304 public school districts and 42 homeless shelters has been conducted by the Kansas State Board of Education annually from 1988 through 1990.

The 1990 count was made during the 24-hour period of April 30. Schools and shelters were asked to conduct their count during the same 24-hour period so that duplication would be avoided and comparisons between the school and shelter data could be made. Eighty-seven percent of the districts and 69 percent of the shelters responded. The number of school-age, homeless children identified was 2,159. Districts reporting twenty-five or more school-age, homeless children and youth are listed below.

Number of School-Age, Homeless Children and Youth Identified by Kansas Public Schools 1988 - 1990

USD	1988	1989	1990
Wichita USD 259	85	478	766
Topeka USD 501	237	305	n/a
Kansas City USD 500	37	240	258
Garden City USD 457	131	162	92
Lawrence USD 497	21	54	91
Olathe USD 233	0	80	77
Pittsburg USD 250	46	44	64
Junction City USD 475	387*	25	62
Hutchinson USD 308	0	36	47
Salina USD 305	58	57	46
Seaman USD 345	n/a	2	45
Shawnee Mission USD 512	n/a	45	45
Leavenworth USD 453	n/a	n/a	35
Turner USD 202	0	3	26
Arkansas City USD 470	0	1	25
Total Statewide Count	*1,469*	*2,039*	*2,159*

n/a not available
* Junction City included children in foster care in the first year of the homeless count.

Identification of Barriers

In the 1990 survey, fifty-eight public school districts reported they have in-house processes to identify barriers that prevent or hinder homeless children and youth from receiving appropriate services. Eighty-six districts reported communication with parents to identify barriers that prevent or hinder homeless children and youth from receiving appropriate services. The number of districts that communicate with social service agencies and organizations to identify barriers is 114. The number of districts that have examined and made needed revisions to school policies and practices that create barriers is fifty-four.

Enrollment

Although 70 percent of homeless children and youth in Kansas originated in the same district where they are attempting to continue school, many districts have taken measures to assist in the enrollment of homeless children and youth that are new to the district. Of 264 districts reporting, 106 allow a 10-or-more-day grace period for immunization records; 114 assist homeless children and youth obtain immunization records; and 108 assist homeless children and youth obtain immunizations. Seventy-two districts provide enrollment personnel, instructors, and administrators with awareness activities in procedures and approaches that are sensitive to the emotional status of homeless children, youth, and their families. About half of Kansas public school districts report that they maintain the academic records of homeless children and youth in a manner that facilitates immediate transfer to requesting districts.

Placement

Local school districts are required to develop placement procedures that assist in maintaining the educational continuity of homeless children and youth. Seventy Kansas public school districts reported they have developed plans to assist homeless children and youth continue in the same attendance center when changes in their living arrangements occur. Of the fourteen public school districts reporting twenty-five or more homeless children during the April 30, 1990, 24-hour period, seven assist homeless children and youth continue attendance in the same school.

Transportation

Some districts have not only made the provision for homeless children to continue in their school of origin but also have provided them with transportation. Lawrence, for example, provides homeless children with transportation to their attendance center of origin for the remainder of the school year in which they become homeless.

One hundred seventy-six districts report the same transportation services that are provided to non-homeless students are also provided to homeless students. Nineteen districts report they provide transportation to children in shelters; however, of the fourteen districts that reported twenty-five or more homeless

children on April 30, 1990, only six reported that transportation is provided to children in shelters.

Critical Needs

Kansas' public schools are attempting to meet the needs of homeless children and youth; however, extraordinary services are often necessary to make sure homeless children and youth attend school and continue their academic progress. Although many districts are providing services that go beyond mandates and official policy, the number of districts that would provide those services if funding were available is as follows:

	Number of districts that currently provide service	*would provide service*
After School Tutoring	33	67
Free Supply Kits that include Pencils, Paper, etc.	34	61
Before School Tutoring	20	56
Other Fee Waivers	62	50
Before/After School Study Clubs	21	42
Free Gym Clothes	30	40
Book Fee Waivers	125	38
Free Breakfasts	20	34
School-Shelter Bus Service	19	27
Tutors in Shelters	5	25

For a composite of Kansas public schools' response to the 1990 survey, see Appendix C.

SECTION III

STATE BOARD OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

STATE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Kansas State Board of Education. The Kansas State Board of Education is established by Kansas Constitution and is charged with responsibility for the...*general supervision of public schools, educational institutions and all the educational interests of the state, except educational functions delegated by law to the state board of regents* (Kansas Constitution, Article 6, amendment adopted at General Election, November 1966). The Kansas State Board of Education has the major responsibility for the administration of the *State Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth* and for general supervision of local education agencies meeting the requirements of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act (P. L. 101-645).

Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner of Education is the executive officer of the Kansas State Board of Education and is appointed by that Board. The Commissioner is the administrative officer of the State Board of Education in all educational matters and functions under its jurisdiction. Under the policies and procedures adopted by the Board, the Commissioner directs all functions of the staff of the Board.

Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners of Education. The Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners of Education are responsible to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education. The Deputy Commissioner maintains fiscal responsibility for educational programs. The Assistant Commissioners administer policies approved by the State Board of Education for the organization and operation of instructional and support programs.

Program Support Services Team. The Program Support Services Team coordinates, at the state and local level, educational programs that target resources and strategies toward the education of students at risk of failure in the Kansas public schools. Through the authority delegated by the State Board of Education, the Program Support Services Team carries out the provisions of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act (101-645). One of the primary functions of this team is to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to a free and appropriate public education. Specific responsibilities mandated by the act include the following:

1) review and revise, if necessary, state laws, regulations, practices, and policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youth in schools that are determined to be in the child or youth's best interests

2) biannually gather data on the number and location of homeless children and youth in the state, the nature and extent of access and placement problems,

the special needs of such children, and the difficulties in identifying their special needs

3) biannually prepare and submit to the U.S. Secretary of Education a report on the data gathered pursuant to responsibility 2

4) amend and submit to the U.S. Secretary of Education the state plan, which includes provisions for placement determinations, assurance of comparable services, timely maintenance and availability of records, and dispute resolution procedures.

Kansas Advisory Council on the Homeless. The Kansas Advisory Council on the Homeless was established to provide representative and statewide participation in decision making related to the education of homeless children and youth. The advisory council consists of professionals in the fields of education and social service who are requested to serve by the Coordinator of Education for Homeless Children and Youth.

Major functions of the advisory council are to offer advice, consultation, and recommendations to the coordinator on matters concerning education of homeless children, youth, and their families. To effectively represent the citizens of Kansas, advisory council members are knowledgeable and informed relative to the public and private interests in education for homeless children, youth, and their families. Specifically, the advisory council functions as follows:

1) advises the coordinator of unmet needs of homeless children and youth within the state

2) assists in the biannual collection of data on the number and location of homeless children and youth, on the nature and extent of access and placement problems, on the nature of special educational needs, and on the difficulties in identifying special needs

3) assists in the development of and any subsequent modifications to the data collection system and the state plan.

Inquiries and Complaints

School or district personnel, parents, social service professionals, or interested persons who believe that a local education agency is not fulfilling its legal responsibilities to a homeless child or youth may contact the Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth, Kansas State Board of Education.

The Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth will provide information to interested persons about the rights of homeless children and youth and the application of those rights in the specific factual contexts.

The Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth may initiate a formal review based upon an inquiry. Procedures for formal review may include the following:

1) an interview with the complainant during which additional information is gathered and specific allegations of noncompliance are identified, verified, and recorded

2) a letter advising the local education agency of the complaint and soliciting relevant information or documents

3) a letter requesting supplemental information from relevant persons, social service professionals, and education professionals

4) a formal, written recommendation (written within ten working days of the initial contact) to the local education agency or agencies, to the complainant, and/or to the parent or parents of the child

5) follow-up telephone calls or on-site visits to assure recommended action has been taken.

Failure to complete corrective action in accordance with the recommendations of the Coordinator of Homeless Children and Youth may result in withholding state and/or federal funds.

Objectives of the Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Objective 1: The Office of Coordinator will ensure that Kansas state laws, regulations, practices, and policies do not act as barriers to homeless children and youth receiving a free and appropriate public education.

1.1: Request the Legal Services Team of the Kansas State Board of Education to review state laws and regulations--particularly those related to transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records, and guardianship--to determine if statutory or other amendments are necessary.

1.2: Make recommendations to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education for appropriate action by the Kansas Legislature.

1.3: Make available to the U.S. Department of Education Kansas state laws and regulations within two weeks of a formal request.

1.4: Monitor public school operations, particularly special programs for homeless children and youth, to assure that homelessness

alone is not sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.

Anticipated Outcomes: Legislature will amend any laws that may act as barriers to homeless children and youth receiving a free and appropriate public education. Homelessness alone will not be sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.

Objective 2: **The Office of Coordinator will biannually gather and analyze data on homeless children and youth to ensure that they receive a free and appropriate public education.**

2.1: Determine the number of homeless children and youth enrolled in Kansas schools through random sampling or other statistical methods that ensure homeless children and youth are not overtly identified as being homeless.

2.2: Biannually modify an instrument for the purpose of collecting statewide data on a) the number and location of homeless children and youth, b) the nature and extent of problems of access to and placement of homeless children and youth in elementary and secondary schools, c) the difficulties in identifying the special needs of homeless children and youth, and d) any progress made by the state and local educational agencies in addressing such problems and difficulties.

2.3: Identify and annually update a statewide database of schools, service providers, and other sources of information that would be appropriate to the study.

2.4: Explore in-house and with other agencies the ability to coordinate data collection.

2.5: Communicate to schools and service providers the objectives and methodology of the biannual data collection.

2.6: Provide technical assistance to schools and service providers prior to and during data collection.

2.7: Retrieve and analyze data for the purpose of state policy formation and federal reporting.

Anticipated Outcomes: Improved methods to identify homeless students without overtly identifying them as homeless and improved methods to meet their special needs will be developed. The state will recognize trends and design appropriate systems that will facilitate immediate response to school, student, and service provider needs. The report to the U.S. Secretary of Education, containing the data

collected, will be made no later than December 31 of every second year, beginning December 31, 1991.

Objective 3: **The Office of Coordinator will develop and carry out the Kansas State Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.**

3.1: Address the needs identified through annual data collection activities and include objectives for local placement determinations, assurance of comparable services, timely maintenance and availability of records, and dispute resolution procedures.

3.2: Modify the plan as necessary to meet demographic and environmental fluctuations, with emphasis on strategies that anticipate, whenever possible, long-term economic trends and the resulting implications to Kansas public schools and their efforts to serve homeless children and youth.

3.3: Include objectives for interagency cooperation to maximize resources in meeting the immediate and long-term needs of homeless children, youth, and their families.

Anticipated Outcomes: The state plan will be amended, as necessary, to provide a free and appropriate public education to homeless children and youth. Local school districts, attendance centers, and classroom teachers will be better able to provide for the needs of homeless children and youth through cooperative efforts developed and maintained with local service agencies.

Objective 4: **The Office of Coordinator will facilitate coordination among state and local agencies and organizations that provide services to homeless children, youth, and their families.**

4.1: Develop relationships and coordinate with other relevant education, child development, or preschool programs and providers of services to homeless children, homeless families, and runaway and homeless youths (including domestic violence agencies, shelters, transitional housing facilities, runaway and homeless youth centers, and transitional living programs for homeless youth) in order to improve the provision of comprehensive services to homeless children and homeless youth and the families of such children and youth.

4.2: Develop and maintain a state interagency council on homelessness to meet on a quarterly and as-needed basis.

4.3: Inform school personnel, service providers, and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the district

homelessness liaisons (see Local Education Agency Objectives and Outcomes, Objective 3).

4.4: Facilitate a multitiered information exchange for the purpose of coordination and strategic planning of effort among state and local agencies and organizations that provide services to the homeless through state and local meetings and an annual statewide conference on homelessness.

Anticipated Outcomes: More comprehensive services to homeless children, youth, and their families will be provided. Resource impact will be maximized at state and local levels.

Objective 5: The Office of Coordinator shall provide assistance to local school districts, agencies, and organizations that provide services for the homeless.

5.1: Identify needed assistance through annual data collection, phone calls, and letters of request.

5.2: Facilitate or directly provide required assistance, including community awareness and staff development.

5.3: Facilitate cooperative effort between service providers and schools through state and local conferences and meetings and through the dissemination of community resource information.

Anticipated Outcomes: Schools and service providers will experience improved communications and coordination of effort. Homeless children and youth will have greater access to available resources. Local professionals will have a centralized resource from which to secure assistance in serving the educational needs of homeless children and youth. The Kansas community will be more aware of the problems of homelessness.

SECTION IV

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Objective 1: **Each local education agency shall address barriers to educational access and placement of homeless children and youth. Each local educational agency shall:**

1.1: Identify barriers to educational access and placement of homeless children and youth through a coordinated effort with shelters and other community service agencies and organizations, with consideration given to transportation, immunization and residency requirements, birth certificates, school records, and guardianship issues.

1.2: Develop, review, and revise written policies to remove the barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth identified in 1.1 above. Special attention shall be given to the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youth who are currently not attending school.

1.3: Continue the child or youth's education in the school of origin for the remainder of the academic year. If the family becomes homeless between academic years, continue the child or youth's education in the school of origin or enroll the child or youth in the school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area attend. Placement shall be made in the child or youth's best interest. Placement shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth is living with homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere by the parents.

1.4: Provide for the parent or person acting as parent of the homeless child or youth to work with the district to determine the placement which is in the child or youth's best interest.

1.5: Designate a district homelessness liaison (see Local Education Agency Objectives and Outcomes, Objective 3) to obtain information from the parents or persons acting as parents of homeless children or youth, homeless children or youth, school professional and support staff, social service agency professionals, and other knowledgeable sources, as necessary to assist in the determination of the placement that will be in the best interest of each homeless child or youth.

1.6: Provide placement procedures based on objective factors and a good faith effort by appropriate school district personnel.

1.7: Provide an avenue for the parent, or person acting as parent; shelter official; or other person in a position of responsibility for

the child or youth to appeal attendance center placement with the Kansas State Board of Education.

Anticipated Outcomes: Districts will identify and develop operating procedures to overcome barriers to the expedient placement of homeless children and youth. The district homelessness liaison will actively pursue the input of the child or youth's parents in determining appropriate placement. Opportunity for the parent or person acting as parent of the child or youth to appear before the local board of education regarding appropriate placement will be provided in a timely manner.

Objective 2: **Each local education agency shall ensure that homeless children or youth are offered services comparable to services offered to other students in the district, including educational, counseling, transportation and other services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria. Each local education agency shall:**

2.1: Develop written procedures for the prompt resolution of disputes and the solution of problems regarding a) access to school, b) enrollment delays caused by immunization requirements, residency requirements, lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation or guardianship issues, and c) records availability, transportation, program eligibility, and other matters affecting the education of homeless children and youth.

2.2: Request and maintain records of the input of area homeless shelters, geographically relevant districts, homeless families, and other appropriate entities in developing appropriate procedures.

2.3: Identify barriers to homeless children and youth receiving appropriate services through various methods including oral communication with parents of, or persons in parental relation to, homeless children and youth and social service professionals with knowledge of special educational needs of homeless children and youth, such as homeless shelter professionals.

2.4: Develop and implement written strategies designed to overcome or alleviate existing barriers to homeless children and youth receiving appropriate services, including means for expedient assessment and placement in programs providing compensatory education, vocational education, special education, and reduced- and free-meal programs.

2.5: Provide homeless children and youth with counseling services that are coordinated with other community agency counseling efforts, whenever available and appropriate, on an individual and, if beneficial and possible, on a family basis.

2.6: Develop programs to meet the specific, educational needs of homeless children and youth and runaways, including school personnel awareness programs and programs such as life skills development, supplementary educational services in the shelters, and other needs expressed by educators and shelter providers during the biannual data collection.

2.7: Ensure that homeless children and youth who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in federal, state, or locally-funded before-and after-school care programs.

2.8: Provide for disclosure of data concerning the participation of homeless children and youth in programs for which the child or youth meets the eligibility requirements.

Anticipated Outcomes: Strategies that will be developed to assure homeless children and youth receive the educational services for which they meet eligibility criteria as districts become aware of barriers to homeless children and youth receiving a free and appropriate public education. Innovative programs, designed to meet the special needs of homeless children and youth, will be implemented in attendance centers and communities. The severe anxiety and depression usually experienced by homeless children and youth will be alleviated, enhancing their potential to achieve. Data will be available to document the participation of homeless children and youth in programs for which the child or youth meets the eligibility requirements.

Objective 3: Each local education agency shall designate an appropriate homelessness liaison whose primary responsibilities will be to ensure that a) homeless children and youth enroll and succeed in school and b) homeless families, children, and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible and receive referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services. An appropriate liaison would be responsible for district social services, special programs for children at risk of failure, or other responsibilities related to disadvantaged children.

3.1: Receive inquiries and promptly resolve disputes regarding homeless students, including inquiries and disputes concerning access to school, placement, school and health records transfer, service or program eligibility, and requests for specific services for homeless students.

3.2: Interview the child or youth, the parent or parents, relatives and other appropriate persons, including service agency professionals, as necessary and available, in order to determine the appropriate placement and services for the child or youth.

3.3: Develop and expand communications and cooperative efforts with local social service agencies and other community agencies and organizations that provide services to the homeless in order to maximize resources.

3.4: Assist the state education agency in the biannual data collection process and in the identification of barriers to homeless children and youth receiving a free and appropriate public education.

3.5: Inform--in conjunction with the Office of Coordinator of the Education of Homeless Children and Youth--school personnel, service providers, and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the district homelessness liaison.

Anticipated Outcomes: The local community, including parents and service providers, will have an avenue for inquiry and representation within the district to ensure that the needs and rights of homeless children and youth are met and protected. Schools and local service providers will expand communication and cooperative effort. The identification of educational barriers and annual data collection will be more thorough and effective.

Objective 4: Each local education agency shall initiate processes to identify homeless children and youth and to ensure their attendance at school. Each local education agency shall:

4.1: Coordinate outreach activities with community service agencies and organizations to locate all homeless, school-age children and youth who are not attending school.

4.2: Coordinate parental awareness activities, which stress the availability and benefits of education, with community service agencies and organizations.

4.3: Facilitate identification of homeless children and youth by attendance center enrollment personnel.

4.4: Facilitate attendance center enrollment procedures sensitive to the emotional status of homeless children, youth, and their families.

4.5: Promote follow-up activities by attendance center personnel to ensure homeless children and youth attend school as frequently as possible.

Anticipated Outcomes: Identification of homeless, school-age children and youth who are not attending school, combined with follow-up activities, will encourage attendance. Homeless children and youth will

experience a greater degree of educational continuity with less embarrassment and anxiety during enrollment.

Objective 5: **Each local education agency shall maintain any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluation for special services or programs, so that the records of homeless children are a) available, in a timely fashion, when a child enters a new school district and b) consistent with Section 438 of the General Education Provision Act.**

5.1: Evaluate record maintenance and availability within local school district attendance centers.

5.2: Develop a written procedure for promptly responding to record requests from other schools and other districts.

5.3: Implement and maintain an effective recordkeeping system.

Anticipated Outcomes: Educational professionals will be better able to ensure the educational continuity of homeless children and youth.

Objective 6: **Each local educational agency shall make available for review strategies, policies, or procedures that are related to the enrollment, placement, and retention of homeless children and youth in school.**

6.1: Written policies and procedures affecting the enrollment, placement, and retention of homeless children and youth shall be available from the district's homelessness liaison within two weeks of a formal request.

6.2: Written strategies, policies, or procedures that are required by the *Kansas State Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth* to assure that homeless children and youth receive a free and appropriate public education shall be available from the district's homelessness liaison within two weeks of a formal request.

Anticipated Outcomes: The Office of Coordinator of the Education of Homeless Children and Youth will be able to review district policies to assure that homeless children and youth do not meet policy barriers during enrollment, placement, and attendance.

SECTION V

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

TECHNICAL DEFINITIONS

TECHNICAL DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of the *State Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth,* the following terms are defined:

Children and Youth. The terms "children" and "youth" include those persons who would be entitled to a free and appropriate public education were they children of residents of the state of Kansas.

School of Current Location. The term "school of current location" means the school attendance district in which the hotel, motel, shelter, or other temporary housing or living arrangement of a homeless child or youth is located.

Educational Service Issues. Issues concerned with a child or youth receiving services for which the child or youth meets the program eligibility requirements, with special exception of those requirements involving length of attendance, and which are offered to other students in the school of placement are "educational service issues." Programs would include, for example, educational programs for the disadvantaged, students with limited-English proficiency, the handicapped, and the gifted and talented as well as school food programs.

Free and Appropriate Public Education. The term "free and appropriate public education" means the educational programs and services that are provided to the children of a resident of the state and that are consistent with school attendance laws. It includes educational services for which the child meets the eligibility criteria, such as those listed in the Educational Service Issues definition above.

Homeless. "Homeless" children and youth are those children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and are living in a publicly or privately subsidized hotel, motel, shelter, or other temporary living quarters, or in a place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. Excluded from this definition are any children or youth imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to federal or state law.

Near Homeless. "Near homeless" means children or youth who are temporarily residing with friends or relatives, because of the unavailability of permanent housing, whether or not accompanied by a parent or guardian.

School District of Origin. The term "school district of origin" means the attendance district in which a homeless child or youth was entitled to attend school immediately prior to the time at which the child or youth became homeless.

Placement Issues. Issues concerned with continuing the child or youth's education in the school of origin of enrolling the child or youth in the school of current location are considered "placement issues."

Records Issues. Issues involving timely maintenance and availability of a child or youth's school records are defined as "records issues."

Transportation Issues. Issues concerned with a homeless child or youth receiving comparable transportation services as provided to the child or a resident of the district are defined as "transportation issues."

APPENDIX B

CATEGORICAL DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CATEGORICAL DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

In order to assist schools and agencies collect standardized data on homeless children and youth, as required by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act, the Kansas State Board of Education, with the help of statewide educators and service providers, has addressed the question of whom should be considered homeless. Following is the definition of "homeless" provided in Section 103(a) of the statute:

1) an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and

2) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is--

   a) a supervised publicly operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);

   b) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or

   c) a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Section 103(c) excludes from the definition of homeless *any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or a State law.*

Certain categories of individuals easily fall within this definition. For example, homeless children and youth would include those living in voucher motels and transitional housing shelters as well as those living on the streets, in cars, or in abandoned buildings or trailers. Other categories are more difficult to classify. Following is a categorical guide to assist in counting the homeless:

Runaways/Throwaways. These children, whether living in a runaway shelter, on the streets, or with other children and youth without adequate adult supervision, should be considered homeless--even if their parents have and are willing to provide a home for them.

Migrant Children. Migrant children as a class should not be considered homeless unless they are homeless under the McKinney definition, i.e., to the extent that migrant children do not have an adequate home base that serves as their principal residence, they should be counted as homeless.

Children Placed by the State in Transitional Emergency Shelters. If a child was placed in an emergency shelter because there was nowhere to send the child and

the child is awaiting placement in a foster home or a home for neglected children, the child should be counted as homeless while in the emergency shelter or youth residence center.

School-Aged, Unwed Mothers or Mothers-To-Be Who Reside in a Home for Unwed Mothers. In general, these "children" have no other available accommodations and should be considered homeless.

Sick or Abandoned Children in Hospitals Who Would Otherwise Be Released if They Had a Place to Go. These children should be counted as homeless.

Children Living with their Families in Trailer Parks and Camping Areas. These children should be considered homeless if they are staying temporarily in parks or camping areas because they lack living accommodations that would be considered adequate under Section 103 of the McKinney Act. Those living in trailer parks on a long-term basis in adequate accommodations, however, would not be considered homeless.

Children Residing in Domestic Violence Shelters. Children and youth residing in crisis shelters that provide temporary living arrangements for victims of domestic violence are considered homeless.

Children of "Doubled-Up" Families (e.g., families pooling their resources and sharing an apartment). The determination of whether children in this class should be considered homeless must be made on a case-by-case basis. Children of doubled-up families should not, as a class, be counted as homeless. If two parents, both with adequate jobs, divorce and one parent moves in with his/her parents, for example, the children would not be considered homeless. If a parent(s) and children move in with friends or relatives on a temporary basis because the economic resources are not available to them for adequate housing, these children would be considered homeless. Economically displaced farm families who temporarily move in with relatives would be considered homeless. Again, this is a decision that must be made on a case-by-case basis. *Generally, children and youth are considered homeless if they are living with friends or relatives on a temporary basis, with or without the presence of a parent(s), because the parent(s) is financially unable to provide adequate housing.*

Age Groups. School-age, homeless children and youth, aged 5 through 18, are counted for the purposes of the McKinney Act.

APPENDIX C

COMPOSITE DATA FROM THE 1990 SURVEY OF KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SURVEY: HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

FORM #0-314-100

Public Schools

As required under federal legislation, Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, P.L. 100-77

Return on or before May 15, 1991, to
Sandra Suttle, Program Support Services
KSBE, 120 E. 10th Street, Topeka, KS 66612
913/296-6066

Respondent _____ Phone ( ) _____
(district name and USD #)

Address _____

_____

Authorized Signature _____ _____
(district official) (date)

1. Identification *Please mark all that apply:*

   a) The school district has a process to identify homeless children and youth that are enrolled. 167

   b) The school district has a process to identify homeless children and youth that are **not** enrolled. 67

2. District Data

   a) During the 24-hour period of April 30, 1990, the number of homeless children and youth served in the district was:

Elementary (K-6)	Middle/Jr. High (7-9)	High School (10-12)	Total Homeless*
(1) 879	(2) 575	(3) 705	(4) 2159

   b) Estimate the number of homeless children and youth served in the district on April 30, 1990, according to their type of nighttime shelter.

Number of Children/Youth	Type of Shelter
(1) 329	publicly operated shelters (those operated with local, state, or federal government funds)
(2) 91	privately operated shelters (those operated with nongovernment funds)
(3) 7	living on streets (outside, doorways, parks, etc.)
(4) 12	quasi-homeless (cars, abandoned buildings, etc.)
(5) 1552	doubling-up (temporarily living with relatives or friends)
(6) 42	where they live or find nighttime shelter is unknown
(7) 126	other (please specify) _____
(8) 2159	**Total According to Type of Nighttime Shelter

Total No. of Districts Responding 264

* Does not include Topeka USD 501--estimated at 444

** The total homeless listed under school level 2a (4) should equal the total number listed under type of nighttime shelter 2b (8)

(2. District Data Continued)

c) Approximate number of homeless, school-age children and youth, living within the school district on April 30, 1990, who **were not attending school**? 110

d) Approximate number of homeless youth who graduated in 1989? 93

e) Approximate number of homeless youth who received high school equivalency (GED or other) in 1989? 30

3. Educational Equity *Please mark all that apply:*

a) Homeless children and youth in the district have an equal opportunity to participate in all services that other students receive including:

(1) Compensatory Education Programs for the Disadvantaged (Chapter 1) 172

(2) Transportation Services 176

(3) Special Education Services 178

(4) Limited English Proficiency Educational Programs 75

(5) Vocational Training 152

(6) School Meal Programs 175

(7) Alternative Programs (such as alternative high school) 70

b) The school district has a procedure for the resolution of disputes regarding school access, records availability, transportation, program eligibility, and other matters concerning the education of homeless children and youth. 102

4. Community Outreach *Please mark all that apply:*

a) The school district communicates with social service agencies and organizations to identify special needs that relate to the education of homeless children and youth. 147

b) The school district maintains regular communication and cooperative effort with community agencies that provide services to the homeless in an effort to maximize resources for destitute families and children. 124

c) The school district provides through community agencies and organizations parental awareness activities that stress the availability and benefits of education. 114

5. Special Services

a) The school district has implemented programs designed to meet the special needs of homeless children and youth including the items marked in **a)** column below:

b) **If state or federal money were available,** the school district **would** implement programs designed to meet the special needs of homeless children and youth including items marked in the **b)** column below:

*Do not mark items in column **b)** that have been marked in column **a)**.*

	Column **a)** Have Implemented		Column **b)** Would Implement
(1)	21	Before/After-School Study Clubs	42
(2)	5	Tutors in Shelters	25
(3)	20	Before School Tutoring in Attendance Centers	56
(4)	33	After School Tutoring in Attendance Centers	67
(5)	19	School-Shelter Bus Service	27
(6)	20	Free Breakfasts	34
(7)	146	Free Lunches	33
(8)	30	Free Gym Clothes	40
(9)	125	Book Fee Waivers	38
(10)	62	Other Fee Waivers	50
(11)	34	Free Supply Kits that include Pencils, Paper, etc.	61
(12)	4	Other (please specify)	4

6. Educational Barriers *Please mark all that apply:*

a) The school district has in-house processes to identify barriers that prevent or hinder homeless children and youth from receiving appropriate services. 58

b) The school district communicates with parents or persons in acting as parents to homeless children and youth to identify barriers that prevent or hinder homeless children and youth from receiving appropriate services. 86

c) The school district communicates with social service agencies and organizations to identify barriers that prevent or hinder homeless children and youth from receiving appropriate services. 114

d) The school district has examined and made needed revisions to school policies and practices that create barriers to the enrollment and education of homeless children and youth. 54

e) The school district has a plan to assist homeless children and youth to continue in the same attendance center when changes in their living arrangements occur. 70

7. Enrollment Procedures *Please mark all that apply:*

a) The school district expedites the enrollment of homeless children and youth by allowing a 10-or-more-day grace period for immunization records. 106

b) The school district expedites the enrollment of homeless children and youth by assisting them to obtain immunization records. 114

c) The school district expedites the enrollment of homeless children and youth by assisting them to obtain immunizations. 108

d) The school district provides enrollment personnel, instructors, and administrators with awareness activities in procedures and approaches that are sensitive to the emotional status of homeless children, youth, and their families. 72

e) The school district maintains records in a form that facilitates immediate transfer to requesting districts. 143

8. Additional Services

Additional information on school district services to homeless children and youth that have not been identified in the preceding items:

have 2 residential centers--turnover is heavy; new awareness to district; programs are designed to meet needs of all children; offers special class academic skills

9. District Request for KSBE Technical Assistance

The school district requests KSBE technical assistance in the areas marked below in an effort to better serve homeless children and youth:

a) Examination and revision of school policies and practices that create barriers to the enrollment and education of homeless children and youth 26

b) Strategies to develop the community's awareness of homeless children and youth 33

c) Development of district processes to resolve disputes concerning the education of homeless children and youth 15

d) Housing and homelessness curriculum guides 22

e) Districtwide staff development in sensitivity to and recognition of the special needs of homeless children and their families 40

f) Strategies to identify policy barriers that prevent or hinder homeless children and youth from receiving appropriate services 25

g) Area resource directories to coordinate services for homeless families 48

h) Other (please specify) _____ 5

Return on or before May 15, 1991:
Sandra Suttle, Program Support Services
KSBE, 120 E. 10th, Topeka, KS 66612